

Appalled and disgusted by 449

Gulf Islands Driftwood

Published: June 01, 2011 9:00 AM

Updated: June 01, 2011 9:14 AM

As a member of this community and a third-generation Salt Spring Islander, I am appalled and disgusted at the proposed Bylaw 449.

If it were not for the excellent article by Eric Booth, island residents and landowners would have unknowingly had this rammed down their throat. Talk about “the fox in charge of the hen house.” As Bob Akerman wrote in his book called *The Akerman Family: Growing up with Salt Spring*, I also grew up with Salt Spring, as many others who are still here working, raising their families, etc. Since inception, the Islands Trust has sought to gain control over the island to so call “preserve and protect,” when — in my opinion — they are building a little empire to suck money from the taxpayers and squeeze out the people who created the charm, mystique and intrigue of the island and our community.

Despite the gallant efforts of my grandparents and uncles and many others in the First and Second World Wars, the control and oppression has filtered through — except this time it doesn’t “goose-step.” It comes in the form of a small group of people making the rules while the rest of us sleep.

In my observation, the Islands Trust could not plan a decent meal, never mind a unique, diverse and growing community. In the end they might destroy what they want to protect.

COLIN BYRON,

Salt Spring